Message Text

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SUBJ: CULTURAL DIALOGUES

REF: (A) WARSAW 6305; (B) STATE 250718

1. VICE DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND CULTURAL COOPERATION KLACZYNSKI REQUESTED A MEETING WITH PAO BALDYGA ON DECEMBER 27 TO REVIEW BILATERAL CULTURAL PROGRAMS FOR 1974. KLACZYNSKI VERY CORDIAL AND NON-POLEMICAL IN HIS PRESENTATION, WHICH HE READ FROM PREPARED TEXT. FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE COMMUNICATED:

A. WESTERN FILM WEEK: MFA GRANTED APPROVAL FOR AMERICAN FILM WEEK TO BE HELD IN WARSAW IN CONJUNCTION WITH WESTERN ART SHOW. DATES WILL BE JAN 14 TO 20. PAO ALSO REQUESTED MFA APPROVAL FOR WESTERN FILM WEEKS IN OTHER CITIES AND KLACZYNSKI PROMISED EARLY MFA REPLY.

B. AGEO OF FRANKLIN/JEFFERSON EXHIBIT: KLACZYNSKI SAID DECISION HAD BEEN MADE TO ACCEPT THE BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT FOR 1975 AND CONCURRED IN JAN VISIT OF CHARLES EAMES TO FOLLOW UP HIS EARLIER DISCUSSION N WARSAW. KLACZYNSKI SAID MFA HAD AGREED TO NATIONAL MUSEUM AS SITE FOR THE EXHIBIT, BUT WOULD BE WILLING CONSIDER THE ZACHETA GALLERY IF THIS IS US WISH. PAO SAID SITE QUESTION COULD BE RESOLVED DURING EAMES' VISIT.

C. POLISH CULTURAL DELEGATION: GROUP OF EXPERS WILL PROBABLY CONFIDENTIAL

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ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON THE FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY. KLACZYNSKI

SAID THE MFA IS POSTPONING THE GROUP'S VISIT PENDING THE ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON OF THE NEW COUNSELOR FOR PRESS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, ZDIZISLAW KOZLOWICZ, NOW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF INTERPRESS. REPEATING THE MFA'S POSITION AS PREVIOUSLY OUTLINED BY DIRECTOR CHABASINSKI, KLACZYNSKI SAID THE POLISH EXPERTS WOULD HOPE TO RECEIVE ADVICE AND OFFICIAL USG SUPPORT FOR CULTURAL AND INFORMATIONAL PROGRAMS THE POLISH GOVERNMENT PLANS TO STAGE IN THE US DURING THE 30TH ANNIVERSAYR YEAR OF PEOPLE'S POLAND. BALDYGA EXPRESSED USUAL CAVEATS ABOUT LIMITS TO WHICH USG WOULD SUPPORT SUCH PROJECTS, BUT SAID WE WOULD BEINTERESTED IN MAINTAINING THE DIALOGUE AND IN LISTENING TO THE POLISH DELEGATION'S PORPOSALS.

2. KLACZYNSKI ALSO EPXRESSED MFA SATISFACTION WITH POLISH/ AMERICAN CULTUAL AND INFORMATIONAL REALTIONS" WHICH, DESPITE DIFFICULT POLITICAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS VIET-NAM, HAVE CONTINUED TO GROW". HE SAID THAT THE DECISION TO MAINTAIN CULTURAL AND INFORMATIONAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IS ALWAYS A POLITICAL ONE; THAT THE POLISH GOVERNMENT WELCOMED THE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN CULTURE IN POLAND. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SOME DIFFERENCES IN OUR POINTS OF VIEW REGARDING THE BALANCE OF SUCH PROGRAMS: THAT, DESPTIE THIS "IMBALANCE", POSITIVE DECISIONS HAD BEEN REACHED REGARDING EXHIBITS AND OTHER PROPOSALS RECENTLY MADE BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY; AND THAT THE MFA HOPED THAT THE "SPIRIT OF GOOD WILL" SHOWN TO THE AMERICAN SIDE WOULD BE RECIPROCATED WHEN THE POLISH DELEGATION VISITS WASHINGTON. THE PAO THANKED KLACZYNSKI FOR THE POSITIVE DICISIONS AND ASSURED HIM THAT THE AMERICAN SIDE HAD ALWYAS SHOWN GOOD WILL IN DEVELOPING CULTUAL PROGRAMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO IN OUR FUTURE DIALOGUES ON THE SUBJECT.

3. COMMENT: KLACZYNSKI WAS NOT AS FORECFUL AS CHABASINSKI IN ARGUING ABOUT THE ALLEGED IMBALANCE IN OUR MUTUAL CULTURAL AND INFORMATIONAL PROGRAMS. HIS MAIN CONCERN SEEMED TO BE OFFICIAL USG ENDORSEMENT OF THE POLITICIALLY SENSITIVE ISSUE OF CULTURAL AND INFORMATIONAL EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF PEOPLE'S POLAND. LATHOUGH THIS WAS NEVER STATED EXPLICITLY, THE MFA MAY BE WORRIED ABOUT CHICAGO POLONIA'S REACTION TO THE MAJOR GOP EXHIBIT ON CONTEMPORARY POLAND PLANNED FOR CHICAGO NEXT YEAR. THE GOP'S PARTICIPATION IN BICENTENNIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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CELEBRATIONS IN THE US ALSO MAY BE TIED TO POLONIA'S FEELINGS ABOUT EXHIBITS WHICH PROPAGATE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF "SOCIALIST" POLAND. WE RECOGNIZE THE DELICACY OF THIS QUESTION WITHIN ETHNIC GROUPS IN THE US AND, FOR THAT REASON, HAVE MADE NO COMMITTMENT ON USG ENDORSEMENT OF CULTUAL PRESENTATIONS OR EXHIBITS CELEBRATING THE PRESENT POLISH SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. WE RECALL THE PRESENTATIONAL DIFFICULTIES THAT AROSE IN CONNECTION WITH THE COPERNICUS STATUE DEDICATION IN CHICAGO.

THE DEPARTMENT'S HANDLING OF THAT SENSITIVE EVENT MIGHT PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR DELAING WITH THE GOP'S 1974 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, REQUIRE SOME US GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION AT AN OFFICIAL GOP EXHIBIT IN CHICAGO. THE LEVEL OF SUCH REPRESENTATION CAN BEST BE ASCERTAINED BY THE DEPARTMENT ON THE BASIS OF DESCREET SOUNDINGS OF THE LOCAL POLONIA ORGANIZATIONS. END COMMENT.

4. EMBASSY WILL USBSEQUENTLY PROVIDE COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS REQUESTED REF B.

DAVIES

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